Project reports for towns

3423. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Karnataka has submitted detailed project reports for 11 towns namely, Gokak, Baillahongal, Shahbad, Hospet, Gangavathi, Kanakapura, Yadgir, Dandeli, Siruguppa, Bagalkot and Madikeri involving a total outlay of Rs. 169.44 crores to the Central Government;

(b) if so, what is the present status of consideration of the proposals; and

(c) by when the funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) In addition to the ongoing projects in Karnataka under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), the Government of Karnataka has submitted additional proposals with an estimated amount of Rs. 165.57 crore for 11 towns namely; Bagalkot, Maddur, Gokak, Baillahongol, Shahbad, Hospet, Gangavath, Kanakpura, Yadgir, Dandeli, Siraguppa. Due to funds constraints in the X Plan, these proposals could not be considered and the State Government of Karnataka had been informed accordingly.

Illegal sand mining

3424. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRON MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale illegal sand mining taking place in the beds of various inter-State, State rivers in the country, especially in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether it has resulted in the environmental degradation in the respective regions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any Central level mechanism to control illegal sand mining on the river beds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?